

In Seaside, Astoria mayor hails 'resiliency,' 'courage' shown by those at Pearl Harbor

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones, a retired U.S. Coast Guard captain, provided a remembrance at the 78th anniversary of Pearl Harbor commemoration at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on Saturday morning.

Jones honored the memory of local Pearl Harbor survivors Spurgeon D. Keeth and William "Bill" Thomas, who died over the past few years. Thomas was the catalyst for Seaside's Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge, christened in 2000.

"We honor the military and civilian dead," Jones said. "We honor the thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as civilians and volunteers, who survived the attack and then demonstrated remarkable resiliency, courage and teamwork not only fighting back, but fighting countless terrible fires, rescuing trapped victims from burning ships, from the water, and from under debris; performing emergency medical care to terribly wounded and burned victims, even when still under attack.

"Remember Pearl Harbor' became a rallying cry for our nation," Jones continued. "The resilience, determination, courage and resolve demonstrated by young men like Bill Thomas and Spurgeon Keeth and thousands of others on Dec. 7, 1941, stood as a model for all Americans from that day forward."

Saturday's remembrance came after a proclamation by the city honoring the victims and veterans of the Japanese attack. "On that day, life changed in America, and the course of history was altered forever," the proclamation states.

Guests included Jones, Seaside Mayor Jay Barber, pastor Dave Barnet and Clatsop County veterans service officer Luke Thomas. There was a welcome greeting by Kim Wright of American Legion Post 99.

Dozens joined the ceremony, followed by the tossing of a wreath from the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge into the Necanicum River.

"It's gratifying to see so many people to take time out of their morning to come out on their Saturday and pay their respects to veterans of World War II, Vietnam and Korea," Jones said afterward.

The remembrance is a reminder of "the significance of an attack on our country and what that means in terms of protecting our nation in the future," he added.



Members of American Legion Post #99 and families of Pearl Harbor veterans Spurgeon Keeth and William "Bill" Thomas walk to the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge to honor their loved ones.



Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones and Seaside Mayor Jay Barber at the convention center Saturday, Dec. 7.



Color guard from the U.S. Coast Guard in front of the convention center.



Family members remember family who served in Pearl Harbor.

Graff, Taggard win new terms on commission

By R.J. MARX
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Two Planning Commission seats came up for reappointment Wednesday, Dec. 4, with two incumbents, Russ Taggard and Terry Graff, winning new terms.

Four other applicants, Barbara Jacobson, Kristina Ross Shetters, David Savinar and Judy Schecter, also sought appointment to the four-year term.

Taggard, Graff and Jacobson interviewed before city councilors.

Taggard said he joined the commission prior to short-term rental regulation, a process he described a good job on the part of the commission. Taggard said he sees the role of a commissioner as "to give basis for decisions" for the City Council.

Graff, in asking to retain his position, called his time on the commission "one of the most rewarding experiences I've had."

"Gearhart is trying to figure out where it fits in the modern world," Graff said. "It hasn't been easy. But all of us have been able to build a consensus and do the right thing for Gearhart."

Jacobson, who serves on the city's budget committee, turned the tables on the council and asked what qualities they were looking for in a commissioner.

In a council interview, Jacobson asked what the city is looking for in a planning commissioner.

City Councilor Dan Jesse said openness was the largest quality.

"Going into whatever you're looking at with an open mind," Jesse said. "There are different paths one could go down to make a decision. To me somebody that looks to each item with fresh eyes without preconceived notions — that's important."

Mayor Matt Brown said he was impressed with each of the candidates. "I've had an opportunity to work with all three of them," he said. "Terry and Russ have done a terrific job on the Planning Commission, wading over some difficult issues over the past four years. It's great to have quality people like you folks making Gearhart what it is and has been, a fantastic residential community."

Taggard received the unanimous council approval of Mayor Matt Brown, Paulina Cockrum, Reita Fackerell, Dan Jesse and Kerry Smith. Graff's reappointment was approved by Brown, Cockrum, Smith and Fackerell. Jesse voted no.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS



Nov. 29

1:29 a.m., Highway 101: Police assist Gearhart police with a suicidal subject.

10:36 a.m., Avenue K and Beach: After being alerted of a transient camp on the beach, officer dismantled vacant camp. Public Works notified for disposal.

Nov. 30

10:33 p.m. N. Holladay: Police contact a couple reported to be creating a loud disturbance; both parties agree to shut it down for the night.

Dec. 1

6:18 a.m., 300 block N. Wahanna: A burglary is reported.

6:18 a.m., 300 block N. Wahanna: A person is arrested on a warrant.

11:55 a.m., Avenue G and Holladay Drive: Motor vehicle accident. Emergency responders on scene.

8:25 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

Dec. 2

11:47 p.m., Whispering Pines: A person is arrested and charged with DUI.

8:19 p.m., Avenue K and Irvine: A disturbance is reported.

Dec. 3

1:17 p.m., Great Wall, Highway 101, Gearhart: Seaside police assist Gearhart police.

4:49 p.m., 2100 block Lewis and Clark Road: A disturbance is reported.

Dec. 4

4:08 p.m., Seventh and Ocean Shore: A person is arrested on a warrant.

11:49 p.m., N. Holladay: Subjects are warned of unlawful lodging.

Dec. 5

2:05 a.m., Seaside Providence Hospital, Wahanna Rd.: A disturbance is reported.

9:04 a.m., Avenue A: Criminal trespass is reported.

5:30 p.m., 700 block S. Downing: A possibly intoxicated person is reported wandering in the area. Police are unable to locate.

7:02 p.m., 1700 block S. Roosevelt: A transient is reported lingering in a parking lot for ten hours; subject, known to the police as having mental issues, agrees to move along.

10:17 p.m., 2300 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports her ex boyfriend is driving intoxicated to work; officer contacting subject finds the complaint to be unfounded.

11:36 p.m., Police headquarters: Police receive a call from a resident of Clackamas County who said his wife was assaulted in a bar in Seaside. After investigation, police say the woman was not in Seaside.



Nov. 29

3:42 a.m., 1000 block S. Downing: Emergency medical response

1:22 p.m., 1600 block Laurel Street: Campfire in wooded area.

10:34 p.m., 2200 block Boehm Acres: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 1

1:42 a.m., 500 block N. Holladay: Emergency medical response. Medix on scene.

11:51 a.m., Tillamook Head Trail: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 2

8:21 p.m., Turnaround: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 3

6:02 p.m., S. Roosevelt: Assist other agency with an emergency medical response.

Dec. 4

3:26 a.m., 2400 block S. Roosevelt: Fire alarm.

10:13 a.m., 800 block Necanicum: Emergency medical response.

1:01 p.m., 8500 block Highway 101: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 5

12:07 a.m., 700 block 12th Avenue: Emergency medical response.



Blinded by headlights

On Dec. 10 at 4:31 p.m. on Highway 101 and East Pine Lane, the driver of a red Dodge Durango told police while traveling southbound, blinded by ongoing headlights from traffic traveling in the northbound lane, she lost sight of the road shoulder and drove into a ditch, coming to an uncontrolled stop in bushes.

Cannon Beach police, Medix, and ODOT were on scene to assist a 58 year old male from Sandy, a 32-year-old female, address unknown, and a 48-year-old female from Seaside.

The southbound lane was closed and detoured for about an hour. Gary's Towing removed the vehicle. No injuries were reported.

Gearhart woman charged with DUI

On Dec. 10 at 4:53 p.m., on Highway 101 and Wild Daffodil Lane, a gray Jeep traveling northbound slowed for a previously reported crash off the southbound shoulder and was struck hard from behind by a Toyota 4-runner.

Both vehicles initially pulled off the road, but then the Toyota took off after the driver refused to give any information. Oregon State Police located the vehicle and driver at her residence.

Julianne Elina Hall, 65 from Gearhart, was arrested for failure to perform duties of a driver and DUII. Hall was transported to Seaside police headquarters where she refused the breath test.

Asleep at the wheel

On Dec. 7 at 6:50 a.m., on Highway 101 and Fifth Street near MP 19, the 19-year-old

male driver from Portland at the wheel of a Ford EC2 van carrying five males from Portland and Cornelius traveling northbound told troopers he fell asleep at the wheel, resulting in the vehicle leaving the roadway to crash into brush.

While the vehicle sustained only minor damage, extensive facial injuries were observed on the three rear view passengers. Gary's Towing pulled the vehicle back on to the road. No further action was taken.

Seaside woman charged with DUI

On Dec. 3 at 9:10 p.m., on Highway 26 and Crowder Road, the driver of a silver Toyota Camry went wide while attempting to turn left into her driveway at Highway 26 and MP 18; this resulted in

her missing the driveway and sliding down an embankment where her vehicle came to rest on the passenger side.

The driver, Karma Diane Smith, 47, of Seaside, extricated herself without injury. A state trooper on arrival soon after observed Smith showed signs of impairment. She performed poorly on a field sobriety test, and was arrested on scene for DUII. Classic Towing was contacted to recover the vehicle and transport it to the driveway. Smith was advised to contact the tow company regarding payment for their service.

The Elsie/Vinemaple Volunteer Fire Department was on scene to get a signed medical release. Smith was transported to Seaside police headquarters where she submitted to a breath sample of .16%. She was released to friends.

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